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Tenth meeting of the Africa Regional
Co-ordinating Committee for the
Integration of Women in Development

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UNRESTRICTED

REPORT

To the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development on the Meeting of Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Development Fund for Women

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was held at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo from 20 to 24 February 1989. Preceeding the Ninth Session of the Board of Trustees, a consultative meeting between the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW was held from 16-17 February 1989. The consultative meeting was held as a follow-up to the recommendation advanced during the Eighth Session of the Board of Trustees held in Santo Domingo from 8-12 February 1988. The consultative meeting was also held pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 42/65 which called for continuous collaboration between the Institute and the Regional Commissions on the basis of equitable cost sharing.

2. One of the important area of co-operation between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions is the preparation and implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan (SWMTEP) on Women and Development. The consultative meeting was therefore held in order to consider cooperative arrangements between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions and co-ordination of their strategies within the SWMTEP for the period 1990-1995.

II. CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND INSTRAW

3. A consultative meeting between the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW was held at the INSTRAW headquarters on 16 and 17 February 1989. It was attended by the ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees representing the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

4. The meeting which was chaired by the Director of INSTRAW had the following agenda:

i) Co-ordination and joint programming within the INSTRAW Medium-Term Plan for the period 1990-1995;

ii) Co-operation between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions for implementation of programmes within the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995;

iii) Public information, documentation and communication activities;

iv) Joint fund-raising activities; and

v) Marking of the Tenth Anniversary of INSTRAW at the regional level.

Within the context of the above agenda items, a review of the programmes of INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions was presented and possibilities for future collaboration were discussed.

5. In considering agenda item (i) on co-ordination and joint programming within the INSTRAW Medium-Term Plan for the period 1990-1995, co-operation between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions in the implementation of their medium-term plans would depend on available resources. Areas considered for possible future collaboration in the programme activities include: research; training; information, documentation and communication; monitoring and evaluation methodologies.

6. In the area of research, it was agreed that monitoring of trends for comprehensive approaches to women and development based on an inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural approach was relevant for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and General Assembly Resolution 42/105. On its part, the ECA representative referred to the ECA/ATRCW reports on the changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies whose objective activities is to monitor and review the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies.

7. Relating to statistics, indicators and data on women, it was reported that close collaboration between INSTRAW, the United Nations Statistical Office and the Regional Commissions had been effective. It was agreed that the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW should exchange information on on-going research related to conceptual and methodological approaches to improve statistics, indicators and data on women's productive role in national economies, including the informal sector.

8. While endorsing research for policy design as presented in the INSTRAW medium term plan it was suggested that information exchange should be intensified on current and planned programmes related to policy design such as policy guidelines in incorporating women's concerns and their participation in national development plans in ECA.

9. As regards to co-operation on sectoral issues, it was stressed that women and development activities required an integrated approach and that co-operation along sectoral lines should not be neglected. In discussing possibilities of future programme development with reference to sectoral issues, areas of possible mutual interest to INSTRAW and ECA could include: promoting and increasing women's participation in science and technology-based training programmes; research in agro-industry and small-scale and medium-scale enterprises.

10. Women's activities in the informal sector was discussed with reference made to the current ECA project on "Improving African Women's Role in Informal Sector in which INSTRAW is involved. It was considered that activities on women's role in the informal sector of the economy constituted an important area for co-operation between INSTRAW and all the Regional Commissions.

11. In the area of training, the important role that INSTRAW had played in the conduct of training need surveys and the selection of target groups was pointed out. Several Regional Commissions including ECA underlined the need for training on women and development in the United Nations system. On this issue, the ECA representative reported on the training workshop organized by UNDP last October (1988) for the UN inter-agency group in Addis Ababa which was very useful. The Regional Commissions

representatives and INSTRAW agreed that the relevant recommendations of CCSQ sub-committee on staff training related to training of UN staff for programming on women and development should be implemented when feasible. Appropriate INSTRAW prototype training material could be relevant in this regard.

12. Continuation of mutual support between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions in training activities, including publishing and dissemination of INSTRAW training material was demeed relevant.

13. In discussing Information, Documentation and Communication, steps could be taken during the period 1990-1995 to explore the possibility of promoting public information activities on women and development within the Regional Commissions in co-operation with INSTRAW and the Department of Public Information. It was also agreed that information exchange between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions should be enhanced and efforts should be made to strengthen information and data bases on women and development in keeping with relevant decisions and recommendations of the United Nations system. On data base, the ECA representative stressed the importance of strengthening information and data base on women and development in keeping with relevant decisions and recommendations of the United Nations system. On data base, the ECA representative stressed the importance of strengthening information and data base on women and development in Africa. She briefly informed the meeting of the current ECA studies on information and data system and its long-term objective of establishing a data bank on women and development in Africa.

14. The Regional Commissions and INSTRAW appreciated the mutual exchange of publications that was currently taking place. This needed further strengthening through libraries and document centres of the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW. In order to continue the exchange of public information material between INSTRAW and the Regional Commissions, several Regional Commissions agreed to include copies of INSTRAW NEWS within their dispatch of their regular mailing lists within the respective region.

15. Another issue concerning co-operation between the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW was the marking of the tenth anniversary of INSTRAW at the regional level. It was agreed to mark the tenth anniversary of the INSTRAW Board in various regions primarily through public information material as well as, where feasible, events that promote women and development issues and INSTRAW's involvement therein.

III. Meeting of the Board of Trustees Ninth Session

16. The ninth session of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women which was held at the Institutes headquarters was attended by its Board members, ex-officio members, observers for UN agencies and NGOs. Representing the UN Secretary General, wars Mr. Xie Qimei, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

The meeting adopted the following agenda :

- opening the session,
- adoption of the agenda;
- election of officers;
- implementation of the work programme for 1988 progress report on the Institute;
- international consultative meeting on communications for women in development;
- publication policy of the Institute;
- INSTRAW medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995;
- networking - co-operation with regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents.
- suggestions for celebrating the tenth anniversary of INSTRAW Board of Trustees in 1990.
- other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.

17. In accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation : President - Kristin Tornes (Norway), Vice President - Betta Torrijos de Arosemena (Panama) and Tawhida C. Hadra (Sudan) as Rapporteur.

Inplementation of the work programme 1988

18. The Progress Report of the Director of the Institute on the implementation of the work programme for the year 1988 outlined the wide array of activities encompassing 26 programmes, in research and training on Women and Development. This was presented in five programmative clusters namely : Statistics, Indicators and Data on Women; Issues Relevant for Policy Design; Sectoral Issues; Training Methodologies for WID; and Network Building.

19. During the 1988 work programme, INSTRAW organized ten meetings two at the global level : Communication for Women in Development and Women and Cooperatives; two regional seminars covering the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region; as well as two seminars at subregional level for the Latin American

and Caribbean region, and four training seminars at national level, in China, Greece, Somalia and Sudan. INSTRAW has maintained a close interrelationship between the Institutes research, training and information programmes and this has contributed to the expansion of INSTRAW Work programme during 1988. In addition to these meetings INSTRAW has participated in many meetings and has been involved in the development of training packages.

20. Two new multi-media modular training packages on "Women and Development" and Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE)" were finalized in 1988 and steps were taken for their wide dissemination.

21. Within its work programme, INSTRAW gave priority to information, documentation and communication activities. In the period under review (1988) INSTRAW has continued to improve statistics and indicators on women. This is important and very much needed in order to appraise available statistical information on women, use of statistics for policy design, and for reviewing and analyzing problems related to the measurement of women's work in the informal sector of the economy for example.

22. INSTRAW's involvement in the implementation of the statistical component in the project on "Improving Women's role in Informal Sector Production and Management", of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) funded by UNDP was discussed. The statistical component with United Nations Statistical Office was presented. To this end, INSTRAW has undertaken an assessment of the availability of data in selected African countries. Statistics and indicators is an area where an active co-operation is being established with all five regional commissions.

23. As regards INSTRAW's research and training programmes related to policy design, methodological approach has been developed to undertake research problems related to monitoring and evaluation methodologies for programmes and projects on women and development. Evaluation methodologies is estremely complex as it includes various women's dimensions into development and programming for women. This is again, one area that calls for sharing of experiences, exchange of material and information with organizations involved in WID programmes. Secondly, monitoring and evaluation are considered important elements of any programme activity by the United Nations System on the status of women. Different organizations in the United Nations System have evolved a variety of methodologies and techniques in order to incorporate Women in Development dimension in their programmes and project.

24. In all, the Board expressed satisfaction in the implementation of the work programme of the Institute during 1988 and that INSTRAW's programmes such as statistics, energy, water and sanitation were of great relevance to most countries. It was suggested that INSTRAW should continue its work in these areas, benefitting the women and poor strata of the population.

International Consultative Meeting on Communications for Women in Development

25. In introducing this agenda item, the main objectives of the international consultative meeting were pointed out and included among others : to exchange views, experiences, approaches and alternatives of internatinal and national experiences in communication

programmes and technologies related to women in developing countries; to identify proposals for future development of communication programmes and projects, and to develop possible modalities of international co-operation to support the formulation and implementation of action oriented programmes and projects in this areas.

26. Issues discussed during the meeting included : women in development in the mainstream communication media ; communication in support of development programmes and projects; new communication technologies, new support services and reinforcement strategies, and institutional and organizational aspects of communication at the national and international level. Guidelines for future action on the role and utilization of communications for women in development were formulated during the meeting. It is envisaged that the guidelines which emanated from the meeting could be used for incorporating women's aspirations into predominantly information society of this century.

27. The Board recognized the importance and relevance of communication for women in development and stressed that special attention should be given to : involving mainstream media interested in reporting on development workers to understand how mainstream media functions in order to communicate effectively with the target audiences. Accordingly, efforts should be made to influence the decision makers of the mainstream media and networks regarding the importante of women in development issues.

28. Communications for Women in Development requires complex programming which should involve a number of organizations. Secondly, programmes in this areas would require interaction and teamwork of researchers, trainers, communicators and technical specialists. At this stage, INSTRAW alone cannot get involved in this areas effectively without the support of institutions having progmatic experience in this field such as the ILO-Turin Centre which provides training on communication. ECA/ATRCW gave support to INSTRAW's concern for communications for Women in Development and informed the Board of its own interest and concern in this field for the women in the Africa region.

Publication Policy of the Institute

29. As requested by the Board at its eigth session, a report on INSTRAW's publication policy was presented. According to the publications content and mode of production, publications produced by INSTRAW may be classified into four differenct categories namely : United Nations Sales Publications; publications issued by contract with commercial publishers; in-house printing; and electronic publishing 1/.

30. Existing INSTRAW constraints in publications and production of materials were pointed out which include among others : maintaining high level publications, editing and the like. The Board recommended the use of desktop publishing for the production of documents and the recruitment of a full time editor for INSTRAW publications 2/. The Board also endorsed the action taken in INSTRAW publication policy as contained in document INSTRAW/BT/1989/L.4, as well as policy guidelines for immediate action in order to ease the existing constraints.

1/ See INSTRAW/BT/1989/L.4

2/ INSTRAW/BT/R.8/Add.3

INSTRAW Medium-Term Plan for the Period 1990-1995

31. The Medium-Term Plan for the period 1990-1995 (INSTRAW/BT/1989/R.5) which was prepared according to the outline considered and approved by the Board during its Seventh Session in 1987 and in accordance with the guidelines given by the Board at its Eigth Session was presented and discussed. The document contained two major parts. The first part contained INSTRAW medium-term plan, while the second part focused on the role of INSTRAW as reflected within the SystemWide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development (SWMTEP). Both parts were however consistent, mutually supportive and interrelated.

32. INSTRAW medium-term (1990-1995) is in consistent with INSTRAW Statute and Mandates covered by Economic and Social Council and General Assembly. According to those mandates, INSTRAW should act catalytically in the promotion of research, training and information aimed at serving women world wide and in all sectors, with specific attention to women in developing countries. Within this medium-term plan, the Institute will focus more of its activities on the regional and national levels in order to assist in the realization and implementation of research findings, which aim at the integration of women in the mainstream development.

33. Secondly, it was reported that in the medium-term plans efforts should concentrate on using the results of research programmes to undertake an increased number of training activities. While the information, documentation and communication programme should be intensified in order to disseminate as widely as possible the findings of research and training activities with the aim of increasing general awareness of policy-makers and the public at large on the issue of women and development.

34. In relation to training, Regional Commissions underlined the need for training on Women in Development in the United Nations system. It was proposed that annoted bibliographies on available training material on different aspects of Women in Development be prepared and disseminated. The need for INSTRAW to continue paying particular attention to preparing training materials and modules on women in development was also stressed and recommended. On this issue, the Board also recommended that future programmes of INSTRAW should include financial provisions for translating training materials and modules and securing their wide dissemination possibly without cost to developing countries.

35. The Board noted the good work INSTRAW continue to produce relative to training materials and suggested that in the forthcoming period, the Institute's training activities should give more emphais to co-operation with academic institutions in preparing curricula for universities. While INSTRAW mode of operation based on co-operative arrangements with United Nations family of organizations should continue to be given priority.

Networking co-operation with Regional Commissions, INSTRAW focal points and Correspondents

36. INSTRAW's mode of working is based on networking as mandated by its statute and General assembly resolution 42/65, in carrying out its functions at the internatinal, regional and national levels to strengthen the scope and impact of its activities. This networking Co-operative arrangements include the United Nations organizations and

bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups. An important element in the Institute's global strategy is its network of focal points and correspondents at the national level. In the Africa region, INSTRAW's focal points are in Egypt Nigeria, Zambia and Sudan. Accordingly, special importance is given between INSTRAW and regional commissions as reflected in document INSTRAW/BT/1989/CRP.4.

37. Networking, according to the principles applied by INSTRAW, works for the benefit of all the organizations involved, since they profit from each other's expertise, costs are shared, duplication avoided and the outreach of INSTRAW multiplied.

38. ECA/ATRCW co-operation was pointed out. In addition to exchange of information, material etc, current activities on Improving Women's Role in the Informal sector was pointed out as aspecific project example by which ECA/ATRCW and INSTRAW is involved in the implementation of the project.

Suggestions for celebrating the tenth anniversary of INSTRAW Board of Trustees in 1990

39. Under this item, the Board was informed that INSTRAW will be marking its Tenth anniversary in 1990. Introduring the report prepared for discussion on this item, the Director informed the Board of the various possibilities for celebrating the Tenth anniversary. She reported that every effort would be made to mark the Tenth anniversary by for instance an event organized during the inaugural week of the session in the host country. Accordingly, consultations would be held with the relevant Departments of the United Nations Secretariat to mark the occasion during the first regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly as well as the extended session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Regional Commissions, INSTRAW focal points and former Board members would be approached to help mark the anniversary in their respective regions and countries.

40 One suggestion put forward was the holding ofa Festival of Arts. The VicePresident of the International Council of Women in her capacity as consultant to the Festival of Arts informed the Board about the technical aspects of holding such a Festival and elaborated on the technical and financial feasibility to launch the idea in 1990.

41. A Committee to prepare the Tenth anniversary was established and that an issue of INSTRAW Review be prepared as part of the activities to mark the Tenth anniversary of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees. The Review would highlight INSTRAW's programmes in relation to international trends of research, training, information and communication on Women and Development. At this stage, ECA/ATRCW informed the Board of the africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) Tenth anniversary which will be celebrated in September, 1989 during the 4th Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development. The ECA/ATRCW representative stressed the importance of the meeting and urged Board members and INSTRAW in particular to give its support in whatever way possible and make every effort to attend the Conference.

IV. CONSULTATIONS WITH UNIFEM

42. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) held a two days consultative meeting with regional commissions : The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The meeting focussed on collaborative arrangements with ECA and ESCWA and on support of the 4th Regional Conference for ECA in paticular.

43. Concerning the 4th Regional Conference, UNIFEM agreed to give ECA its support by financing the following studies to be commissioned by ECA/ATRCW and undertaken before June 1989 as basis for the Conference documents :

(a) strategies for improving women's access to education and training in science and technology;

(b) guidelines for incorporating women's concerns in development planning; and;

(c) flow of resources to women's programmes in the context of the African Food and Debt Crisis.

44. ECA/ATRCW Expert Group Meeting for the Establishment of a Data Bank for Women and Development in Africa was reviewed. Taking into consideration of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pasific experience on Data Bank for Women and Development, it was discussed and agreed that ESCWA should be involved and participate in the forthcoming Expert Group Meeting. In this respect, ECA/ATRCW would provide all the information and communications on the project to ESCWA. In principle, UNIFEM agreed to explore the possibilities of funding ESCWA's participation to the expert Group Meeting.

45. A briefing on UNIFEM's activities in the Africa Region was also held. In discussing UNIFEM's activities and ECA/ATRCW work programme, it was agreed that exchange of information/materials should be maintained.